The Cherokee Observer

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"The Only Independent Cherokee Newspaper"

Vol. 16 No. 2 - February 2008

$.50 per Copy

Serving the Cherokee People Since 1992

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LISA LaRUE NAMED NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIST OF THE YEAR

by 2008 OKLAHOMA MUSIC AWARDS

With an overwhelming response, Lisa LaRue was named Native American Artist of the Year.

"I was shocked, and this breathes new inspiration into my life!" said LaRue. This comes with the announcement of a new CD; the announcement of the CD came last week in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Music Awards are sponsored by Payne County Line Promotions, Stillwater, and LaRue will also be receiving studio time at Flatland Studio. Other nominees for the category included Cherokee Nation Youth Choir among a host of others. As runner-up, Jay Red Eagle was awarded studio time, as well. Also awarded was the Musician Honoree in the Hall of Fame to Leon Russell.

Lisa LaRue is a tribal member of the federally-recognized United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, where she also serves as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

She began playing keyboards as a small child, her grandmother noticing she was playing "These Boots are Made for Walkin'" on her Magnus Chord organ. Sought out by shopping malls and department malls as a young girl, she started writing her own songs and designing her own 'album covers.' This led and inspired her for her future career.

A composer and keyboardist, LaRue became the first female artist signed to the Sound of American Records label (SOAR0 Natural Visions sublabel. Her debut release was titled "Beloved Tribal Women," produced by Will Alexander (keyboard tech to Keith Emerson, Herbie Hancock, and many other great keyboard players). The CD also received accolades for being a first in combining art with music. The CD booklet featured 14 paintings by the most awarded female Native American artist in the world, Joan Hill. The idea was, "A picture paints a thousand words," so naturally, the music was instrumental, letting the art inspire the listener.

The next release was "Children's Songs in the Cherokee Language," for which she received 2 NAMMY nominations (Native American Music Awards). The third release was a collaboration with Muscogee (Creek) flutist/guitarist John 'Yafke' TImothy titled "That Ol' Sofkee Spoon." 'TOSS' has received numerous requests, so as it is out of print, LaRue and Timothy plan to re-release it as a 'classic reissue including one new never-released track

Steve Forbes Visits Oklahoma Political Think Tank

(OKLAHOMA CITY)-The Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs welcomed Steve Forbes and Oklahoma 's Senior United States Senator, Jim Inhofe, today at their Oklahoma City headquarters. Forbes and Inhofe spent their time meeting with the board of directors for OCPA and discussing the organization's public policy agenda.

Mr. Forbes and Senator Inhofe talked extensively with the Board of Directors and staff about their continued efforts to encourage limited government, individual liberty and a free-market economy. "We are happy to make our facilities available to Mr. Forbes and Senator Inhofe who serve as champions of the free market system," said OCPA president Hopper Smith.

Mr. Forbes currently serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Forbes Inc. and Editor-in-Chief of *Forbes* magazine. He is considered a widely respected economic prognosticator, and is the only writer to have won the highly prestigious Crystal Owl Award four times. Mr. Forbes is also the author of ***Flat Tax Revolution: Using a Postcard to Abolish the IRS*** (Regnery, 2005). He also wrote ***A New Birth of Freedom*** (Regnery, 1999), a book of bold ideas for the new millennium. In 1998, he was awarded OCPA's Citizen of the Year award. ###

OCPA is a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank which formulates public policy research and analysis consistent with the principles of free enterprise and limited government.

STATEMENT BY ELOUISE COBELL, LEAD PLAINTIFF

COBELL vs KEMPTHORNE

BROWNING, MONT., Jan. 30 — Elouise Cobell, lead plaintiff in the class action lawsuit over the federal government's mismanagement of the individual Indian Trust, expressed delight with today's ruling by U.S. District Judge James Robertson in the 11-year-old litigation.

"This is a great day in Indian Country," she said after the judge's ruling was released in Washington.

"We've argued for over ten years that the government is unable to fulfill its duty to render an adequate historical accounting, much less redress the historical wrongs heaped upon the individual Indian trust beneficiaries.

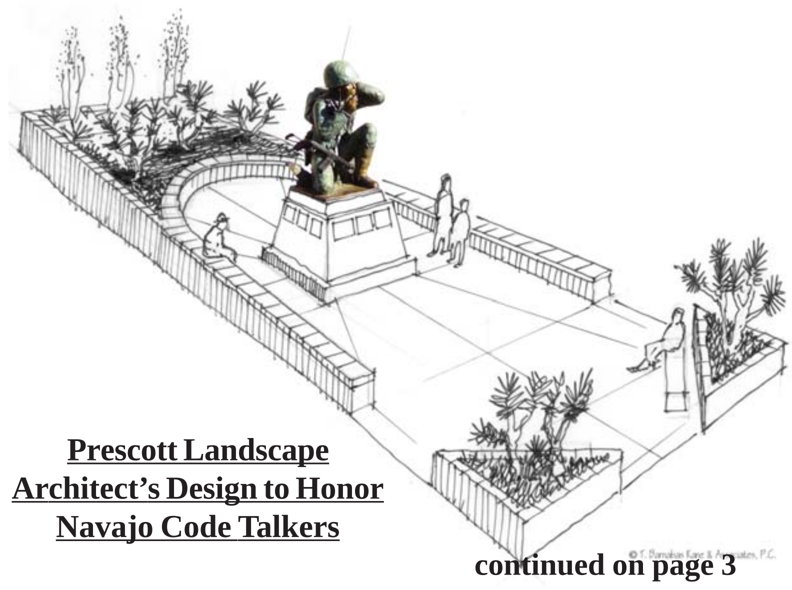
"Instead of truthfully seeking to remedy the government's admitted historical mismanagement, the government elected to fight plaintiffs every step of the way.

"Judge Robertson has settled the debate in favor of plaintiffs and found that an adequate historical accounting is, in fact, impossible.

"Plaintiffs look forward to Judge Robertson's scheduling of a hearing 'determining an appropriate remedy' in light of their failure to render the court-ordered accounting."

In his ruling, Judge Robertson declared:

"My conclusion that Interior is unable to perform an adequate accounting of the IIM [Individual Indian Money] Trust does not mean that a just resolution of this dispute is hopeless. It does mean that a remedy must be found for the Department's unrepaired, and irreparable, breach of its fiduciary duty over the last century. And it does mean that the time has come to bring this suit to a close."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Prescott Landscape Architect's Design to Honor Navajo Code Talkers

continued on page 3

CITIZEN-TIMES.com

WNC politians: Refuse donations from autocratic tribal leadership

By Joseph Martin

February 21, 2008 12:15 am

This is an appeal to the consciences of candidates who may be approached by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' leadership for the purpose of donating, particularly Rep. Heath Shuler.

There's a movement among tribal members to hold their elected officials accountable, to have a truly democratic government where citizens all have an equal say with their rights guaranteed, where the people are sovereign, not the government. They have a long, hard road ahead of them.

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has no ethics law for elected officials. It operates under a governing document that was forced upon the tribe's membership with no approval from a majority of tribal voters. Laws that clearly violate civil rights remain on its books. Principal Chief Michell Hicks has shown little initiative to resolve any of this.

Speech unpopular with tribal government can be punished. Ask two former Cherokee Central Schools employees, Chris McCoy and Bear Allison, who on their own time produced the podcast, "The Shower Free Show," which featured criticism of the chief.

Add to this the fact that Chief Hicks seemed to have no problem accepting the results of an election where the names of about 60 voters in one community mysteriously disappeared from the poll lists. Hicks' margin of victory was 13 votes.

While the federal government was willing to send troops halfway around the world to free Iraq from tyranny, the Eastern Band has been goose-stepping toward autocracy with the U.S. turning a blind eye. It's legal to donate tribal money to campaigns, but that doesn't mean it's right.

Shuler accepted $4,600 from the tribe over the last year. Shuler received a lot of votes from tribal members, despite Hicks' clear-cut support for former Rep. Charles Taylor. The real Eastern Band of Cherokee is the more than 13,500 members, of which only about 14 percent voted for Hicks (if one believes the results of a botched election). The other 86 percent voted for his opponent, or didn't or couldn't vote. Do the right thing, Rep. Shuler. Return the $4,600 and refuse any future donations made on behalf of the tribe as a whole. Other candidates should do the same.

Joe Martin lives on tribal trust lands in Cherokee County.

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Freedmen say their concerns are ignored

By Devona Walker Staff Writer

Photo Added

MUSKOGEE — About a dozen black protesters, some dressed in American Indian garb, demonstrated outside U.S. Rep. Dan Boren's district office in Muskogee Friday afternoon. Members of the Cherokee Freedmen Association said Boren has been both inactive and nonresponsive to their concerns. The group has been embroiled in federal litigation with the Cherokee Nation over tribal membership. The Cherokee Nation sponsored an election last year, kicking out the freedmen — descendants of Cherokee slaves and freed slaves who originally traveled to Oklahoma territory with the tribe. In 1866, the Cherokee Nation entered into a treaty with the U.S. government granting tribal membership to the freedmen. "I was reading that treaty just the other day: it couldn't have been any more clear. It said the people who came here with you are going to be citizens, and you will treat them like citizens," said Norman Hightower, 67. As tribal members, the group would have access to a plethora of services such as free health care and education for dependent children, in addition to a share of the tribe's gaming profits. Removed from the rolls Last year, Cherokee Nation Chief Chad Smith led an effort to remove the freedmen from the tribe's rolls. In response, the freedmen contacted the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C., for assistance. Within a few months, two pieces of legislation were proposed that would strip the Cherokees of federal funding if they removed the freedmen from the tribal rolls. Boren blocked one of the two bills, asking that Congress first allow the issue to go through the proper judicial channels before Congress acted. Marilyn Vann, president of the Cherokee Freedmen Association, said she'd previously spoken with Boren about the protest. She was present at Friday's event. Boren expressed disappointment that his office became the scene of a demonstration. "I support all citizens' rights to express their views through civil demonstration if they so desire," Boren said Friday in a prepared statement. "But, I think in targeting my office, Mrs. Vann is confused as to my involvement in this issue. My office has no record of Mrs. Vann requesting a meeting to discuss her views. If she had met with me or my staff, we could have explained to her that our office has been instrumental in keeping funding available to both the Cherokee Freedmen and the Cherokee Tribe. "The Freedmen would be better served by a spokesperson that takes the time to do his or her homework," Boren said. "My comments on the telephone were directed only toward Mrs. Vann, and not to the freedmen as a group. My door is always open to the freedmen, and should they request an appointment I would be happy to meet with them." Your ThoughtsMore Stories By By Devona Walker

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NIGA Partners With Hulk Hogan to Form Dreamseekers Foundation

Greetings!

At the 2007 Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas, NV, I had the opportunity to announce details of an historic partnership created to raise critical resources to assist American Indian youth. Co-founded by Hulk Hogan and myself, the Dreamseekers Foundation will raise and disburse funds to several tribal programs and nonprofit organizations focusing on efforts to improve the lives of young tribal members.According to U.S. Census Bureau data, American Indian children are more likely to live in poverty than any other group of children in this country. We need to change this! Dreamseekers Foundation and Hulk Hogan are is committed to improve this statistic by providing assistance to groups at the local level that will make a difference for our Native youth.

Ernest L. Stevens, Jr.
National Indian Gaming Association Chairman

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Tribal officers removed

By Krista Duhon - The News-Record

Seneca-Cayuga judge declares referendum valid, denies officials' request for relief

Rulings issued Thursday in the district court of the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe have put two tribal officials out of office.

Judge Karl Jones denied injunctive relief to second chief Katie Birdsong and secretary-treasurer Kay Crow-Ellison and announced that he could not reverse a general council (assembled by ballot) decision to remove the elected officials from office.

Jones cited the plaintiffs' "failure to exercise reasonable diligence" and "refusal to take any action to prevent their possible removal before all the votes had been cast" as he declared them guilty of laches and barred them from further relief.

The judge indicated that the plaintiffs did not avail themselves to the procedures that were available to them throughout the full grievance and election process.

"Under different circumstances not present at bar, the court can imagine a close question on an as-applied challenge," Jones wrote in his order. "Because plaintiffs are guilty of laches and failure to exhaust administrative remedies, the court cannot reverse the removal by the general council assembled by ballot under the facts presented."

Additionally, Jones deemed the process of assembling a general council by means of a ballot, which plaintiffs allege is unconstitutional, as consistent with past tribal practices. Therefore, recent ordinances authorizing the action remain intact.

Jones did note that an assembly by ballot does create a potential for constitutional challenges with regard to matters of a hearing. The tribe's constitution requires a hearing be held before the general council.

However, Jones indicated that, based on evidence presented to the court, he could not find that a hearing did not take place, therefore, the court could not find that due process was not provided.

Seneca-Cayuga Chief Paul Spicer said Thursday that the ruling marked a sad day for the tribe.

"It is a sad commentary on tribal politics that it has come to this," Spicer said. "At one point, the business committee had a lot of opportunities in front of it. These last few months have pretty much put a halt to progress in the tribe."

The tribe's voting membership were mailed ballots after the Seneca-Cayuga Grievance Committee reviewed complaints against the officers and found cause to take the matter before a general council.

Votes were cast in December and counted on Feb. 1.

Ballots called for Birdsong's removal 517 to 157. Ellison's removal was supported by 512 of the 675 ballots cast.

Friday, February 22, 2008

If you want to check out information about the Cherokee Histrorical Society, go the www.cherokeeobserver.org and click on CNO Historical Society Concern on Troy Poteete link.

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The Cherokee Observer welcomes letters to the Editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Lettersmay be edited for space and or libelous content. Names may be withheld upon request. Letters will be published as space permits. Letters to the Editor express the views of the writer and donot necessarily reflect the view of the Cherokee Observer.

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Open Letter

Sun, 24 Feb 2008

How much does it cost to buy a Cherokee? Evidently not as much as it did to buy our Ancestors, when we must consider their strength to stand for what best served the Cherokee and what is going on today. The cost today seems to be a few hundred dollars. Our Ancestors stood for Cherokee rights against the United States government regardless of the personal price.

Their ethics, traditions and morals were not for sale. My Dad taught us right is right and that does not change. What has happened to us? Our officials are for sale to an ego-driven, self-serving administration within our own tribe.

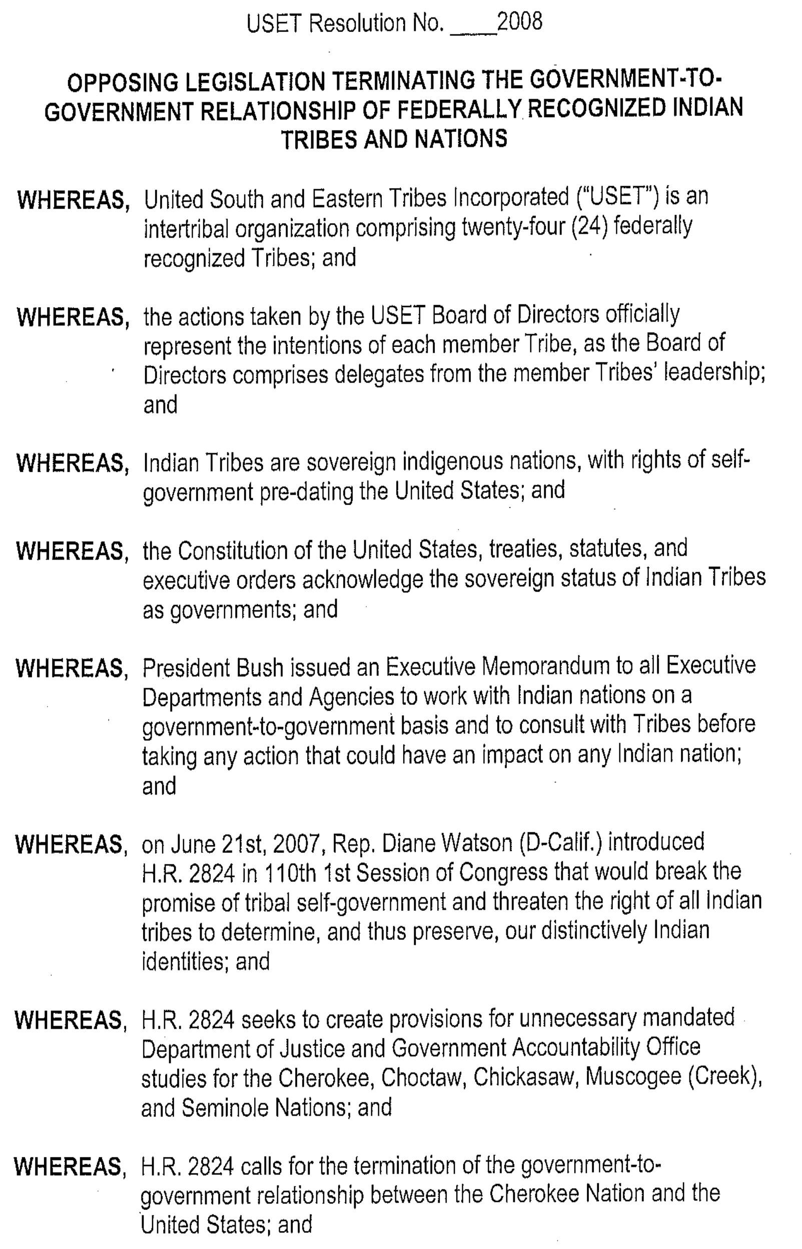
Our Constitution is no more important to this administration than toilet paper. Our young people are at war, fighting for democracy, a constitution for the people and individual rights while the current Cherokee Nation administration, legislative and judicial branches are denying those same rights to the Cherokee.

We are hostages to this system inside a democratic nation under this process. The federal government denies the voice and individual rights of Cherokee citizens and our own tribal government currently exists only for themselves.

There is no democracy for the Cherokee. There is nothing Tribal about our current government system. When are we going to stand up as a People, speak as Cherokees and demand that our Constitution and individual rights be considered?

How much money does the Cherokee Nation have to make each day before the People can be considered? Investing in casinos does not increase the economy for the individual Cherokee families, nor has it improved their quality of life. We desperately need a leader to arise among us.

Leonard Nave, Cherokee Citizen



USET Resolution No. ____2008

OPPOSING LEGISLATION TERMINATING THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIONS

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated ("USET") is an intertribal organization comprising twenty-four (24) federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes are sovereign indigenous nations, with rights of self-government pre-dating the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, and executive orders acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as governments; and

WHEREAS, President Bush issued an Executive Memorandum to all Executive Departments and Agencies to work with Indian nations on a government-to-government basis and to consult with Tribes before taking any action that could have an impact on any Indian nation; and

WHEREAS, on June 21st, 2007, Rep. Diane Watson (D-Calif.) introduced H.R. 2824 in 110th 1st Session of Congress that would break the promise of tribal self-government and threaten the right of all Indian tribes to determine, and thus preserve, our distinctively Indian identities; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2824 seeks to create provisions for unnecessary mandated Department of Justice and Government Accountability Office studies for the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2824 calls for the termination of the government-to-government relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; and

If you guessed Marvin Summerfield in last months "GUESS WHO THIS IS" YOU WERE CORRECT

Next time you see him, tell him Hi!

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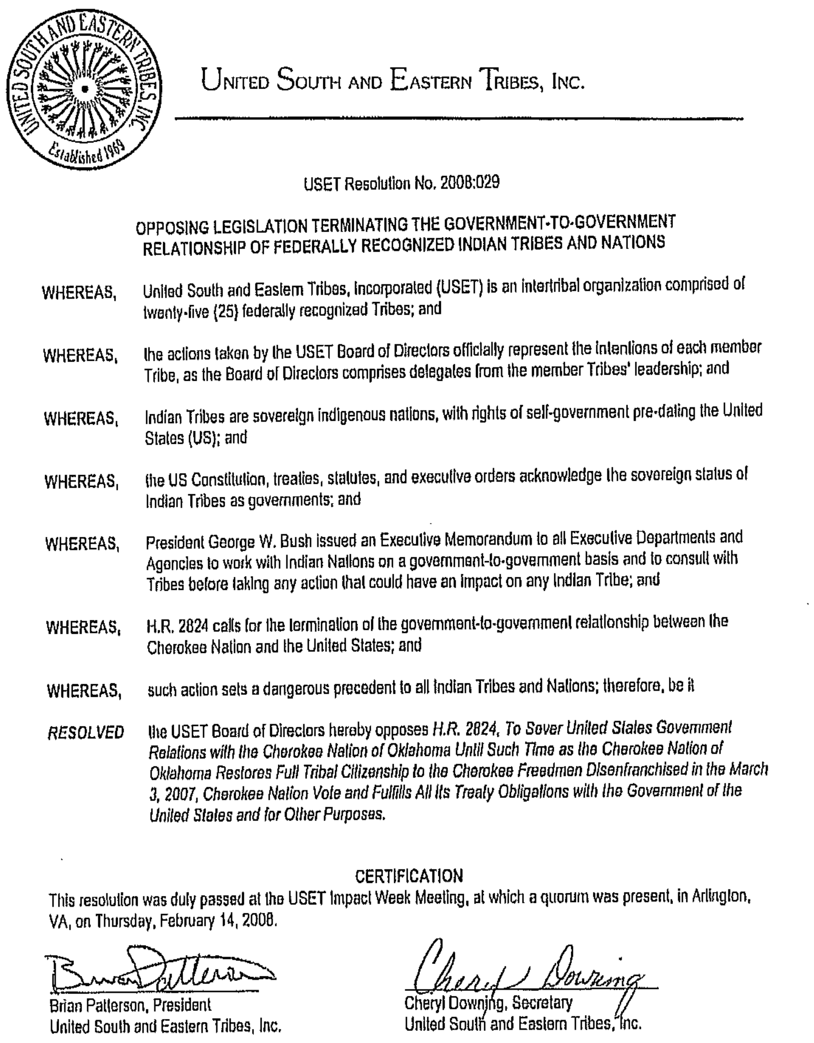

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

USET Resolution No. 2008:029

OPPOSING LEGISLATION TERMINATING THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES AND NATIONS

WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and

WHEREAS, Indian Tribes are sovereign indigenous nations, with rights of self-government pre-dating the United States (US); and

WHEREAS, the US Constitution, treaties, statutes, and executive orders acknowledge the sovereign status of Indian Tribes as governments; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued an Executive Memorandum to all Executive Departments and Agencies to work with Indian Nations on a government-to-government basis and to consult with Tribes before taking any action that could have an impact on any Indian Tribe; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2824 calls for the termination of the government-to-government relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the United States; and

WHEREAS, such action sets a dangerous precedent to all Indian Tribes and Nations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors hereby opposes *H.R. 2824, To Sever United States Government Relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Until Such Time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma Restores Full Tribal Citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen Disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation Vote and Fulfills All Its Treaty Obligations with the Government of the United States and for Other Purposes.*

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 14, 2008.

Brian Patterson
Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Cheryl Downing
Cheryl Downing, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

USET is the organization that represents the tribes of the Southeastern region of the U.S. They refused to allow the Cherokee Nation to join a few years ago, even though all Cherokees continue to have a vested interest in the historic, archealogical and economic issues facing our motherland. You will notice that the resolution does not address the Watson Bill specifically and mistakenly infers that the issue is about termination. It is not. The Watson Bill only proposes to "suspend" the government to government relationoship with the Cherokees until such time as they come into compliance with the treaty of 1866 by restoring the freedmen. Don't be fooled by these resolutions, similar to the one passed by NCAI.

Sequoyah High School Alumni Annual Business Meeting & Banquet May 2, 3 & 4th, 2008 Tahlequah, Oklahoma Call your Classmates & come to visit at this Annual Reunion.

Cherokee Basket Weaver's Association Presents

Cherokee Twill Basket Class
Taught by Sandra Pallie

1. Place: Unitarian Universal Congregation of Tahlequah located at the Corner of College and Delaware Streets in Tahlequah, Oklahoma
2. Date: March 1, 2008
3. Time: 10am to 4pm
4. Cost: $25 non members
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NTHS is closed on weekends, Federal Holidays, and the 1st Friday morning of each month. If you have a medical emergency when this facility is closed, patients may go to the Claremore Indian Hospital where an emergency room is open continuously. The hospital is located at 101 South Moore Street, Claremore, Oklahoma. The hospital phone number is (918) 342-6200.

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SAVE BIG

continued from page 1

PrescottLandscape Architect's Design to Honor Navajo Code Talkers

Plan aims to create setting of remembrance and veneration for new state monument.

PRESCOTT,Ariz. (Feb. 22,2008)----—What makes memorial art monumental isn'tbronze, marble or eternal flames. It's the power it has to evokefitting remembrance of those it venerates.

How to do this for Arizona Navajo Code Talkers whose unbreakable military code helped secure United States victory in some of World War II's most famous battles?

And how to do it with landscape?

Thesewere the questions Landscape Architect Barnabas Kane pondered when hesat down to design the landscape portion of the Navajo Code TalkersMonument, a state memorial project scheduled to be erected in downtownPhoenix Feb. 28.

Kane'sproject aims to honor the Arizonans among more than 400 Navajo codetalkers who developed the code and used it to transmit orders, troopmovements and military tactics in every US Marine Corps assault in thewar's Pacific theater between1942 and 1945, including Guadalcanal andIwo Jima.

Theybased the code on the highly symbolic spoken Navajo language, to whichthey added encrypted vocabulary that made the code one of the only onesskilled Japanese code-breakers never demystified.

TheNavajo Code Talkers Monument, a project approved by the statelegislature in 2003, is to be placed in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza,part of the State Capital complex that's home to similar memorials forstate and national historic figures.

Kane,principal of Prescott-based landscape architecture firm T. BarnabasKane & Assoc.,specializes in designs that are particularlysensitive to history, culture and environment.

Whendesigning the monument's environment, he focused on creating aninviting micro-park within the plaza that would draw attention to themonument's message, remembering and honoring the Navajo code talkers.

This approach is one reason Kane was selected as the project's landscape designer, said former Arizona Rep. Sylvia Laughter, founder of the Navajo Code Talkers Memorial Foundation, the nonprofit organization funding the project.

"Weare fortunate to have someone of Barnabas Kane's expertise designingthe landscape," she said. "His design, coupled with the beautifulstatue, is a wonderful way to honor the Navajo Code Talkers."

While serving in the capacity of State Representative in 2003, Laughter sponsored the legislation that made way for the project.

Theheart of the monument is a nine-foot bronze statue, depicting a Navajocode talker mid-transmission by renowned Ute-Navajo artist Oreland C.Joe, from Kirtland, New Mexico.

Kane'sdesign, which he drafted over about three months, celebrates thesculpture's artistry while creating an inviting setting that encouragesvisitors to take pause and reflect on what the art represents.

Thegeometric iconography of Navajo art, as well as existing park features,other memorials and the overall aesthetics of the capital complex,influenced the layout.

Kanewanted the space to embrace both art and visitor. A gently curving lowwall will cup the statue and create a welcoming, eye-catching centralspace.Colorful flowering and Arizona native plants will create a soft,alluring backdrop.

The wall was designed low to serve as seating and additional benches were placed along angled planters across from the statue.

Todetermine final layout, paving and plant selections, Kane worked withthe state's Historical Advisory Commission, Governmental MallCommission and administration department, plus representatives from theNavajo Code Talkers Monument Foundation.

Like many of the project's other contributors, Kane is donating his work and time at no charge.

"Thisis a great chance to offer my services for something meaningful," hesaid. "The Navajo code talkers' contribution to the war effort savedthousands of lives. I'm pleased to be part of a project that honorstheir courage and sacrifice, as well as the Navajo Nation as a whole."

Adedication ceremony is scheduled for February 28, 2007, at monumentsite the Arizona State Capital's Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, 1700 W.Washington St., Phoenix.

About T.Barnabas Kane & Associates

T.Barnabas Kane& Assoc., P.C., is a Prescott-based landscapearchitecture firm with morethan 20 years of experience creating habitatthrough landscaping. Specializingin ecological site planning andlandscape design for the Southwest, the firm'sdesigners integratearchitectural principles and environmental sensitivity tocreate habitatthat unifies structures, people and the natural world. For moreaboutthe firm and its design philosophy, visit www.tbkadesign.com.

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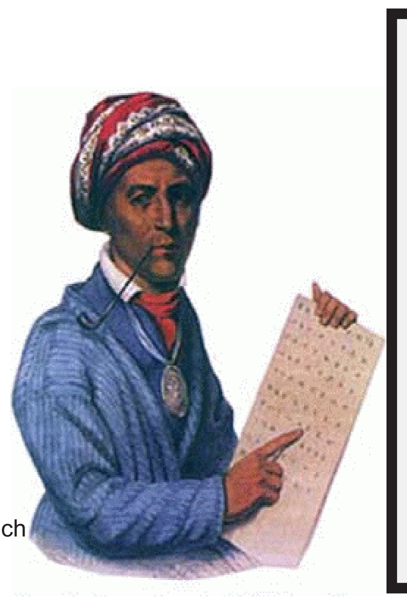
Ꮃ	Ꮄ	Ꮅ	Ꮆ	Ꮇ	Ꮈ	4. (L)
Ꮉ	Ꮊ	Ꮋ	Ꮌ	Ꮍ		5. (m)
Ꮎ Ꮏ	Ꮑ	Ꮒ	Ꮓ	Ꮔ	Ꮕ	6. (n, nh)
Ꮖ	Ꮗ	Ꮘ	Ꮙ	Ꮚ	Ꮛ	7. (q)
Ꮜ Ꮝ	Ꮞ	Ꮟ	Ꮠ	Ꮡ	Ꮢ	8. (s)
Ꮣ Ꮤ	Ꮥ Ꮦ	Ꮧ Ꮨ	Ꮩ	Ꮪ	Ꮫ	9. (d, t)
Ꮬ Ꮭ	Ꮮ	Ꮯ	Ꮰ	Ꮱ	Ꮲ	10. (dl, tl)
Ꮳ	Ꮴ	Ꮵ	Ꮶ	Ꮷ	Ꮸ	11. (j, ch)
Ꮹ	Ꮺ	Ꮻ	Ꮼ	Ꮽ	Ꮾ	12. (w, hw)
Ꮿ	Ᏸ	Ᏹ	Ᏺ	Ᏻ	Ᏼ	13. (y, hy)

Use vowel sound on top for each column vowel sound. Use consonant sound for each line across. Exception (Line 8) Ꮝ only has "s-s-s" sound, and no vowel sound.



Cherokee Symbol Study-Line 7

ᏌᏍ	(SAH-SASSS)--------------------------------------	goose
Ꮞ	(SAY-loo)---	corn
Ꮟ	(oh-SEE-choo) ------------------------------	how are you?
Ꮠ	(SOH-qwee-lee)-------------------------------------	horse
Ꮡ	(SOO-lee)--	buzzard
Ꮢ	(SUH-gah-tah)------------------------------------	apple

THE EASY WAY

The first step in learning to read and write Cherokee is to learn the Cherokee Syllabary. Sequoyah taught it using the sight and sound method, we have found that to be the best method also. We suggest you learn one line at a time. Say and write each symbol of the line seven times. Repeat until each line is learned then move on to the next. But, always review the previous lines. After you learn the Syllabary, Cherokee words and short phrases will be easier to learn. Although we strongly urge you to use all available Cherokee language resources, We recommend you to avoid using English phonetics. Learning the sound of the symbol by sight eliminates the dependency on an unnecessary learning step which some new methods use.

Richard M. Wolfe Letter

ᏓᏖ ᏗᏡᎬ ᏗᎦᎸᎪᎬ
ᎦᎶᏂ 16, 1911

ᎠᎵᏁᎩ ᎤᎱᏩᎵ ᎤᎾᏤᎵᎪᎯ ᎠᎦᏗᏴ ᎤᏗᏤᏯ ᎾᎵᏄᏍᏗᏲ.
ᎣᏏᏁᎩ ᎣᏣᏓᏏᏖᎵᏙᎯ ᎣᏥᏊᎻᏗ. ᎣᏏᏅ ᎩᎴᏩ ᎣᎦᏓᏡᎬ ᏙᏥᎳᎾᎵᎢ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎯᎠ ᎣᏥᏊᎻᏗ ᎠᎴ ᎠᏂᎩᏚᏩ(Keetoowah) ᎤᎾᏓᏡᎬ ᎣᎪᎯᏳᏒᎢ ᎯᏍᎩ ᎢᎦᏛ ᎯᎨᎡ ᏅᎩ ᎢᎦᏛ ᎢᏯᏂᎢ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩ ᏴᏫ ᎥᏝ ᎣᏟᎾᏏᏂ ᎩᎦ ᎾᎵ ᎮᏍᏗᏂ ᏂᎦᎥᏉ ᏚᏯ ᎾᏍᏓ ᏁᏏ ᏗᏘᏲᎯ ᎨᎡ ᏗᏘᏲ ᏎᎯ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩᏱ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩ ᎯᎠᏉ ᎬᏗ ᎣᏥᏔᏲᏎᏅ ᏩᏥᏂ ᎠᏰᎵ ᎤᎬᏫᏳᎯ ᎤᏪᎾᎯᏍᏙᏗ ᎠᏥᏊᏅᎯ ᎨᎡ ᎬᏂᏳ ᏉᏰᏃ ᎠᎦᏣᎰ ᎯᏍᏗ ᎢᎩ ᎮᏍᏗᏂ ᎴᏡᏛ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩ ᏣᎳᎩ ᎩᎬ ᎤᏲᏁᎯ ᎠᏂᎬᎩᎨ ᏗᏥᏥ ᎾᏞᏛ ᎠᎵᏱᎵᏙᎲ ᎤᎬᏩᎵ ᏓᎵᎪᏓᏁᎲ ᎠᏂᎬᎩᎨᎢ ᏗᏂᏲᏝ ᎪᏎᏗ ᎨᎡ ᎾᏍᏉ ᎥᏝ ᎤᏂᏣᏘ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩ ᎣᏓᏗᏲᏎᏅ ᎾᏉᏍᎩᏂ ᎤᏩᏒᏉ ᎤᏪᏥ ᎠᏲᎵ ᎠᏳᏃ ᎠᏲᎵ ᎤᏗᎢᏒ ᏱᎸᎵᏍᏔᏅ ᎤᏩᏒ ᎤᏯᏍᏗᏍᎩ ᎨᎡᎢ ᎾᏍᎩᎾ ᎠᏁᎶᏱᏍᎬ ᏥᎩ ᎤᎾᏤᎵᎪᎲ ᎠᎴᏗᏯ ᏧᏲᎯᏎᏗᏱ ᎦᏙᎯ ᎠᎲ ᎤᏪᏗ ᏗᏂᏴ ᎾᎥ ᏍᎩᏍᎦ ᎢᏯᎦᏴᎵ ᎠᏕᎩᎯ ᏍᎬᏩᎶᏗ ᎾᏍᎩᎾ ᎤᏯᏍᏗᏍᎩ ᏂᎨᏒᎾ ᎢᎩ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎠᏲᏝ ᎠᎴ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎯᎠ ᎠᏝ ᏱᎵᏙᎲ ᎣᎪᎯᏳᏒ ᎢᎩ ᎮᏍᏗᏂ ᏓᏗᏲᏎᎲ ᏅᏕᎵᏛ ᎬᏗ ᏧᎪᏏᎢ ᎠᏕ ᏧᏂᎯ ᎪᎱ ᏕᎦᎸᎪᎬ ᏧᏂ ᎾᎵᏓᏁᎯ ᎠᎴ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎠᏂᏏᏴᏫᎭ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎤᎾᏤᏟᎪᎯ ᎠᎦᏗᏴ ᎠᏁᎶᏗᏍᎬ ᏥᎩ ᏧᏁᏗ ᎦᏙᎯᏗᏊ ᏏᏗᏛᏍᏗ ᏂᎴᏊᏖᏛᎾ ᎣᏤᎵᏍᎬᎢ ᎤᏗᏘᏢ ᎢᎦᎢ ᎣᏥᏗᎩ ᎾᏍᎩᎾ ᏃᏍᏗᏂ ᏚᎩ ᎾᏍᎶᏁᎩ ᎠᏂᏣᎳᎩᏯ ᏣᎳᎩ ᎩᎬ ᎤᏂᏁᎯ
ᎤᏗᏘᏢ ᎢᎦᎢ ᏟᏂᎨᏒ ᏃᏳᏁ Ꭳ ᏂᎦᎥ ᎤᎴᎰᎯᏍᏗ ᎾᎬᏁᎸ Betsy Galcatcher ᏧᏙᎢᏛ 1906 ᎤᎴᏗᏴᏌᏗᏒ Guly L. Reed ᏧᏙᎢᏛ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎮᏍᏗᏂ ᏌᏉ ᏪᏅᏑᏃ ᎠᏂᏯᎢ ᎤᎾᎵᎪᎯ ᎾᏍᎩ Reed ᏧᏙᎢᏛ ᏰᎵᏉ ᎤᏚᎵᏍᎬ ᎤᎶᏎᏃ ᎦᏙᎯ ᎤᎲ ᏐᏁᎳᏍᎪᎯ ᎢᏯᎦᏴᎵ ᏧᎬᏩᎶᏗ ᎾᎦᎳᎣᏅ ᎠᎨᏴ ᎢᎦᎢ ᏧᎬᏩᎶᏗ ᎦᏓ ᎤᎲ ᎠᎴ ᏰᎵ ᎸᎵᏂᎬᎬᎾ ᎤᏩᏒ ᎤᏝᏍᏕᏃᏗ ᎤᏩᏎᏃ ᎯᏃᏢ ᏁᎳᏛ ᎢᏯᏍᎪᎪ ᏧᏖ ᏅᏧᏴᏒᎳ ᎠᎴ ᎾᏍᏉ ᎤᏚ ᎸᎵᏍᏓᏁᎩ Annie Potts Cody ᎾᏍᎩᎾ ᏃᏍᏗᏂ ᎤᏩᏒ ᎨᏒ ᎤᏩᏎᎴᎢ.
ᎤᏗᏘᏢ ᎢᎦᎢ ᎣᏂᏁᎩ ᎾᏍᎩ ᎠᏂᎩᏚᏩ ᎤᎾᏓᏡᎬ ᎤᎳᏅ ᎠᏍᎦᏰᎬᏍᏮ ᎣᏂᏁᏤ ᎠᏏᏉ ᏔᎵᏁ ᎤᏛᎪᏙᏗ ᏩᏥᏂ ᎠᏰᎵ ᎤᎬᏫᏳᎯ ᏧᏩᎳᏅᏒ ᏙᎩᎦᏗ ᎨᏒ ᎠᎴ ᎯᎠ ᏗᏟᎶᏍᏔᏅ ᎤᏪ ᏍᏙᏗ ᏜᏅ ᎢᏱ.
ᎣᏥᏩᎯᏍᏓ ᎦᎶᏂ 16, 1911
ᏢᏝᏬᏍᎩ ᏗᏆᏩᏗᎾᎱ ᎠᎪᏏᏅᏝᏍᎩ
ᎠᏂᏪᎻᏗ
ᏗᎪᏪᎵᏍᎩ ᎾᏥᎦᏪᎸ
ᎣᏍᏓᏱᏓ ᎦᎶᏂ 16, 1911
ᎬᏍᎦᏟᏍ ᏩᏯ
ᏗᎦᏚᏓᎢ ᏍᎦᏴᎬᏍᏓ
ᎵᏫᏁᏩᏛ
ᏣᎳᎩ ᏗᎪᏪᎵᏍᎩ
ᏧᎬᏩᎬᏗ
ᏔᎵᏁ ᎠᏍᎦᏴᎬᏍ
ᏯᏐᎾᏯᎩ
ᏦᎢᏁ ᎦᏙᎦ ᎠᏍᎦ ᏰᎬᏍ

Catcher Louis(?) Things
August 16th, 1911

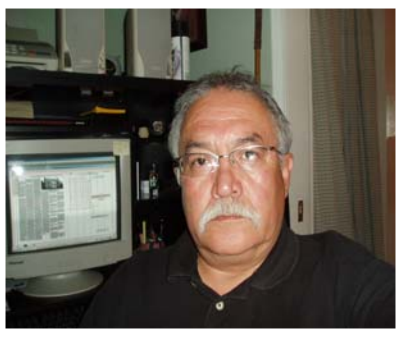
Resolution relating to the employment of William W. Hastings by the Secretary of the Interior.

Be it resolved by the advisory committee of the Keetoowah Society, that this committee and Society in general, and it is believed four/fifths of the Cherokee people, do not recognize William W. Hastings as in any respect the attorney for the Cherokees by blood, and we hereby earnestly ask the President of the United States, to terminate his employment. It is well known that in the freedman case said Hastings is against Cherokees by blood and in favor of the freedman. It is also known that in the Cherokee newborn case, said Hastngs does not represent his the Cherokees in general but does represent his own child, in care of whom both he is kin and lawyer and to whom the Secretary of the Interior is attempting to give land near Fort Smith, Arkansas worth fifteen thousand dollars, to which the said child is not entitled. In this same case it is believed that said Hastings is in the secrect employment of certain rich oil companies or individuals to whom the Secretary of Interior is attempting to give land of very great value without authority of law as we believe.

Resolved further that as evidence of the said Hastings unpatriotic and unfair dealings with Cherokees by blood.
(The rest is missing)

ᎦᎶᏁᏛ ᏥᏌ
ᎤᏓᏙᎵᏍᏔᏅᎢ

ᎣᎩᏙᏓ ᎦᎸᎳᏗ ᎮᎯ, ᎦᎸᏉᏗᏳ ᎨᏎᏍᏗ ᏕᏣᏙᎥᎢ. ᏣᎬᏫᏳᎯ ᎨᏒ ᏫᎦᎾᏄᎪᎢ. ᎠᏂ ᎡᎶᎯ ᏫᏂᎦᎵᏍᏓ ᎭᏓᏅᏖᏍᎬᎢ, ᎾᏍᎩᏯ ᎦᎸᎳᏗ ᏥᏂᎦᎵᏍᏗᎭ. ᏂᏓᏙᏓᏈᏒ ᎣᎦᎵᏍᏓᏴᏗ ᏍᎩᎥᏏᎪᎯᎢᎦ. ᏗᎨᏍᎩᎥᏏᏊᏃ ᏕᏍᎩᏚᎬ ᎾᏍᎩᏯ ᏥᏂᏗᎦᏲᏥᏁᎰ ᏦᏥᏚᎩ, ᎠᎴ ᏞᏍᏗ ᎤᏓᎪᎵᏰᏗᎨᏒ ᏫᏗᏍᎩᏯᏘᏅᏍᏔᏅ, ᏍᎩᏳᏓᎴᏍᎨᏍᏗᏉᏍᎩᏂ ᎤᏲ ᎨᏒᎢ, ᏣᏤᎵᎦᏰᏃ ᏣᎬᏫᏳᎯ ᎨᏒᎢ, ᎠᎴ ᏣᎵᏂᎩᏗᏳ ᎨᏒᎢ, ᎠᎴ ᎡᏣᎸᏉᏗᏳ ᎨᏒ ᏂᎪᎯᎸᎢ. ᎡᎺᏅ



Marvin J. Summerfield
Language Editor
Miami, Oklahoma

ᏂᎦᏓ ᎠᏂᏴᏫ ᏂᎨᎫᏓᎸᎾ ᎠᏚ ᎤᏂᎦᏐ ᏚᏳᎪᏛ ᎨᏒᎢ.

ᎨᏥᏁᎳ ᎤᎾᏓᏅᏖᏗ ᎠᏚ ᏌᏊ ᎨᏒ ᏧᏂᎸᏫᏍᏓᏁᏗ ᎠᎾᏟᏅᏢ ᎠᏓᏅᏙ ᎬᏗ.

English Translation

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ᎡᎵᏏ

GRANDMOTHER

My Grandmother
ᎠᎩᎵᏏ

Your Grandmother
ᏣᎵᏏ

His/Her Grandmother
ᎤᎵᏏ

Yours & My Grandmother
ᎩᏂᎵᏏ

Grandmother of you two
ᏍᏗᎵᏏ

His/Her & My Grandmother
ᎣᎩᏂᎵᏏ

ᏌᏍ
Ꮞ
Ꮟ
Ꮠ
Ꮡ
Ꮢ

This is the first line in the Cherokee syllabary. Read the symbols from the left to the right.

We will print one word or a short sentence in the Cherokee Syllabary each issue.
Look at the written symbols on the lines above and then trace the following dotted lines to learn the Shape of each symbol.
Then say the Sounds of the Symbols each time you write them. (Look at the syllabary to find the sounds for each symbol).
Then do it on your own. You will now know the Sounds and the Shapes of each of the Symbols for each line.

ᏗᏎᏍᏗ NUMBERS

1-ᏌᏊ	2-ᏔᎵ	3-ᏦᎢ	4-ᏅᎩ
5-ᎯᏍᎩ	6-ᏑᏓᎵ	7-ᎦᎵᏉᎩ	8-ᏣᏁᎳ
9-ᏐᏁᎳ	10-ᏍᎪᎯ	11- ᏌᏚ	12-ᏔᎵᏚ
13-ᏦᎦᏚ	14-ᏂᎦᏚ	15-ᏍᎩᎦᏚ	16-ᏓᎳᏚ
17-ᎦᎵᏆᏚ	18-ᏁᎳᏚ	19-ᏐᏁᎳᏚ	20ᏔᎵᏍᎪᎯ

ᏗᏂᏘᏲᎯᎯ	(dee-nee-tee-yoh-hee-hee)	LAWYER
ᎠᎾᎵᏣᏙᎲᏍᎩ	(ah-nah-lee-tsah-huh-s-gee)	MINISTER
ᏗᏂᏓᏂᏱᏍᎩ	(dee-nee-tah-nee-yee-s-gee	CN MARSHAL
ᎠᏂᎦᎾᏘ	(ah-nee-gah-nah-tee)	DOCTOR
ᎣᏍᏓᎢᏯᏅᏁᎯ	(oh-s-tah-ee-yah-nuh-nay-hee)	SAILOR
ᏗᏂᏐᏍᏗᏍᎩ	(dee-nee-soh-s-tee-s-gee)	TYPIST
ᎠᏂᏲᏍᎩ	(ah-nee-yoh-s-gee)	SOLDIER

ᏅᏃ ᎤᏁᎦ
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Freedmen descendants stage protest

By S.E. RUCKMAN World Staff Writer

3/1/2008

MUSKOGEE — About 20 freedmen descendants marched on Rep. Dan Boren's district office Friday in hopes of gaining a face-to-face meeting with the Oklahoma congressman.

Organizers said the march also was an effort to draw attention to their tribal citizenship efforts.

"We want Rep. Boren to sit down with us and discuss our concerns," Marilyn Vann, president of the freedmen descendants group, said. "Freedmen are his constituents, too."

Group members are the descendants of freed slaves who lived and intermarried within the Cherokee Nation after the Civil War.

Boren issued a statement Friday stating that he is supportive of the descendants and would welcome a chance to meet with them.

Verdie Triplett of Fort Coffee said Boren has not done enough to help his group.

"I haven't seen any indications that Mr. Boren has the freedmen's interests in mind," he said. "So far, he has not been a friend to the freedmen."

House Bill 2824 would cut federal funding to the Cherokee Nation unless freedmen descendants' citizenship is restored permanently. The bill is in committee.

Boren said he has lobbied

for the tribe to retain more than $300 million that the bill would cut, which would benefit the freedmen descendants.

Cherokee Nation spokesman Mike Miller said the descendants have no claim to Cherokee Nation citizenship based on the law or history.

The tribe removed about 2,700 freedmen descendants from its rolls after 10,000 tribal members voted last year to amend their constitution to allow only people with Indian blood to be citizens.

A tribal judge temporarily reinstated the descendants' citizenship in May while they appeal the election.

Many Questions RE: Ross Swimmer

by David Cornsilk

No one is really sure that Ross O. Swimmer is truly a Cherokee by blood. Questions surfaced during his term as the tribal attorney under W.W. Keeler regarding his paternity. His father is stated to be Robert Swimmer, who was an appointed community representative prior to the adoption of the socalled 1976 constitution. He was dismissed by his own son when Swimmer dismissed the Community Representatives because they wouldn't do his bidding.

It was alleged and Robert never denied that Ross' mother was pregnant by a white man when she took up with him. Under Oklahoma law a child born within a marriage is considered both legitimate and the child of the man married to the mother unless a court order states otherwise.

Interestingly enough, according to my sources, the enrollment files of Ross Swimmer, Philip Viles (also alleged to be adopted), Chad Smith and Wilma Mankiller are empty. It was alleged that they were placed in a vault for safekeeping. This has spawned other rumors that the records of Swimmer, Smith and Viles were hidden to keep anyone from seeing their birth certificates and the tortured method used to "prove" their Indian blood.

H. R. 2824

To sever United States' government relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until such time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma restores full tribal citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation vote and fulfills all its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 21, 2007

Ms. WATSON (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. FATTAH, and Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To sever United States' government relations with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma until such time as the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma restores full tribal citizenship to the Cherokee Freedmen disenfranchised in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation vote and fulfills all its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In the 1830s, members of the Cherokee Nation were removed from their lands in the southeastern United States and forced to migrate to Oklahoma along a route known as the Trail of Tears. Among those persons forced to migrate were the Black slaves of Cherokees, free Blacks married to Cherokees, and the children of mixed-race families, known now as the 'Black Cherokees'.

(2) In 1861, the Cherokee Nation executed a treaty with the Confederate States of America, thereby severing its relations with the United States Government. Members of the Cherokee Nation held positions in the Congress and military of the Confederate States of America and waged war against the United States during the Civil War.

(3) Following the Civil War, the United States reestablished relations with the Cherokee Nation through the Treaty of 1866. The Treaty of 1866 declared that the Black Cherokees, also known as 'Cherokee Freedmen', were to be made citizens of the Cherokee Nation and to have all the rights of Cherokees.

(4) The Treaty of 1866 further guarantees the following:

(A) Laws 'shall be uniform throughout said nation' and that if 'any law, either in its provisions or in the manner of its enforcement, in the opinion of the President of the United States, operate unjustly in [the Freedmen] district, he is hereby authorized and empowered to correct such evil.'.

(B) The Cherokee Freedmen are given the right to elect officials and to representation 'according to numbers' on the national council.

(5) Following the Treaty of 1866, the Cherokee National Council amended its constitution to guarantee the Cherokee Freedmen full rights as citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

(6) Also following the Treaty of 1866, the Courts upheld the Cherokee Freedmen's treaty rights, including—

(A) in 1895, the Court of Claims held that the Cherokee Freedmen were entitled to share in the tribe's land sale proceeds and the Cherokee Nation's sovereignty could not be exercised in a manner that breached the nation's treaty obligations to the United States (Whitmire, Trustee for the Cherokee Freedmen v. Cherokee Nation, 30 CT Cl. 138, 180 (CT Cl. 1895); and

(B) in 1906, the Supreme Court noted that the Cherokee Freedmen are citizens of the Cherokee Nation entitled to the same property rights as other members of the Cherokee Nation under the Treaty of 1866 (Red Bird v. United States, 203 U.S. 76, 84).

(7) In a December 19, 2006, ruling in Vann v. Kempthorne, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia found that in 1906, the Dawes Commission registered members of the Cherokee Nation under separate categories: the 'Freedmen Roll' for the Black Cherokees and the 'Blood Roll' for other Cherokees. Individuals possessing African blood were placed on the Freedmen Roll, where no levels of Indian blood were recorded. Those possessing no African blood were placed on the Blood Roll, where levels of Indian blood were recorded. The Dawes Commission declared that persons recorded on the Freedmen Roll were on equal footing with those on the Blood Roll.

(8) In 1970, Congress passed the 'Principal Chiefs Act' requiring the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Nations to obtain approval for their voting laws for selection of the principal chief. The Department of the Interior drafted a policy stating that it was not necessary that each of these groups have identical or similar regulations, but that three conditions are deemed fundamental to the democratic selection of a principal tribal official. One of the three conditions stipulated by the Department is that voter qualifications of the Cherokees must be broad enough to include the enrolled Cherokee Freedmen citizens.

(9) In May 2003, the Cherokee Nation held an election for its officers and ratification of a new constitution. The vote proposed to amend the 1999 constitution of the Cherokee Nation by removing the requirement that the United States Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs approve amendments to the Cherokee Nation Constitution. The Cherokee Freedmen were not permitted to vote or run for office. The election violated the Treaty of 1866, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the Principal Chiefs Act of 1970, and the Department of the Interior's guidance on the ratification of a new constitution.

(10) In May 2003, the Cherokee Nation held an election for its officers and the ratification of a new constitution. The new constitution removed the requirement that the United States Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs approve amendments to the Cherokee Nation constitution. The Cherokee Freedmen were not permitted to vote in this election. The election violated the Treaty of 1866, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, and the Principal Chiefs Act of 1970.

(11) The Department of the Interior has not recognized the May 2003 vote to amend the Cherokee Nation's constitution. The Cherokee Nation has subsequently removed its request for approval from the Department of the Interior.

(12) Currently, the Cherokee Nation operates under a Principal Chief elected in violation to the 1970 Principal Chiefs Act and Treaty of 1866, a National Council constituted without Cherokee Freedmen representatives in violation of the Treaty of 1866, and a Constitution not approved by the United States pursuant to Article XV, Section 10 of the 1975 Cherokee Nation Constitution.

(13) In May 2003, the Cherokee Nation renamed its highest court, formerly named the Judicial Appeals Tribunal and newly renamed the Supreme Court, after the Judicial Appeals Tribunal ruled in a 2-1 decision that the Cherokee Freedmen were entitled to citizenship pursuant to the 1975 Cherokee Nation constitution. Pursuant to the new May 2003 constitution, which still has not been approved by the Department of the Interior, the illegally elected Principal Chief appointed two additional judges to the Supreme Court. The panel of five Supreme Court judges ruled in a 3-2 decision that the Cherokee Nation could hold a vote on the tribal status of the Cherokee Freedmen.

(14) Operating under the unapproved Constitution, the Cherokee Nation held an election in March 2007, to remove the Cherokee Freedmen from the Cherokee Nation. In a vote of less than 4 percent of the total Cherokee Nation population, the voters elected to remove Cherokee Freedmen not on the Dawes blood rolls from the Nation.

(15) In May 2007, the Cherokee Nation leadership determined that it would allow registered Freedmen to vote in the June 23, 2007 election for tribal officers. Despite the Cherokee Nation's decision to allow Freedmen to vote, Freedmen's rights as members of the Cherokee Nation are severely restricted: Freedmen are not allowed to run for office in the June 2007 election in violation of the Treaty of 1866; the registration of Freedmen entitled to Cherokee citizenship under the 1906 Dawes Rolls has been halted; and the election is to be held under provisions of an unapproved constitution and in violation of the 1970 Principal Chiefs Act that requires the Cherokee leadership to submit its voting requirements for the election to the Secretary of the Interior for his approval. Further, the actions of the Cherokee Nation in halting citizenship application processing and voter registration of Freedmen have disproportionately reduced the number of Freedmen voters that can participate in the election.

(16) The manner in which the Cherokee Nation is conducting the relationship between the United States and the tribal entity is not in the best interest of the United States Government, citizens of the Cherokee Nation, and violates existing treaties and laws governing the relationship between the United States Government and the Cherokee Nation.

(17) Current efforts of the Cherokee Nation to expel members of the Cherokee Freedmen from the tribal rolls and abolish Department of the Interior oversight are being pursued in violation of the treaty rights extended to the Cherokee Freedmen in a treaty agreement between the United States and Cherokee Nation in the 1866 Treaty and in violation of Freedmen citizenship under the federally approved Cherokee Nation constitution of 1975.

(18) The Department of the Interior has failed to uphold its fiduciary responsibility by recognizing the May 2003 Cherokee Nation election for Principal Chief in which Freedmen were not allowed to vote in violation of the Principal Chiefs Act and the Treaty of 1866 and by failing to take any administrative action against the Cherokee Nation leadership for its decision to sanction a referendum in March 2007 in which the Freedmen were expelled from the Cherokee Nation.

SEC. 2. SEVERANCE OF RELATIONS WITH THE CHEROKEE NATION.

(a) In General- The United States hereby severs all relations with the Cherokee Nation, including all financial obligations or otherwise, until such time as the Cherokee Nation is meeting all of its treaty obligations and other federal statutory obligations (including all obligations of the Treaty of 1866, the Principal Chiefs Act, holding elections for tribal leaders that are in compliance with the Act, and has restored the rights of all Cherokee Freedmen disenfranchised from the Cherokee Nation in the March 3, 2007, Cherokee Nation vote), as determined by a final certification under section 2(d).

(b) Compliance With the Requirements of the Act- The Secretary shall coordinate with all departments and agencies of the United States Government to ensure that every effort is being made by the United States Government to comply with this Act.

(c) Reports-

(1) FEDERAL AGENCIES- Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and continuing annually until the final certification as determined under section 2(d), all departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the United States Government shall submit a report to the Secretary describing—

(A) all Federal programs under their jurisdiction that provide financial assistance and other services to the Cherokee Nation; and

(B) the efforts that are being undertaken comply with all requirements of this Act.

(2) STATUS REPORTS- Until the Secretary certifies to Congress that the Cherokee Nation is in compliance with its treaty obligations, the Secretary shall submit monthly public reports to Congress on the status of the United States Government's efforts to ensure that all departments and agencies of the Federal Government are in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

(3) OTHER FREEDMAN INDIANS- Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a public report to Congress on the status of freedmen in the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations of Oklahoma. The report shall address whether each of those Indian tribes is complying with all treaty obligations and Federal laws with respect to its freedmen members, the level of participation of freedmen in tribal leadership positions, tribal benefits received by the freedmen, and previous or current efforts on the part of those Indian tribes to disenfranchise its freedmen members.

(d) Congressional Certification- After the Secretary has certified to Congress that the Cherokee Nation is in full compliance with all its treaty obligations and Congress approves the Secretary's certification by a vote taken on a resolution introduced in both chambers of Congress certifying that the Cherokee Nation is in full compliance with its treaty obligations, the final certification of the Cherokee Nation's treaty compliance shall take effect.

SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF RIGHT TO CONDUCT GAMING OPERATIONS.

(a) In General- The Cherokee Nation's authority to conduct gaming regulated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and to administer any funds from such gaming are suspended until such time that the Cherokee Nation is in compliance with all treaty and other obligations with the United States, as determined by a final certification under section 2(d).

(b) Report- Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Indian Gaming Commission shall submit a report to Congress detailing the actions that have been taken to enforce subsection (a).

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

(a) 'Cherokee'and 'Cherokee Nation'- The terms 'Cherokee' and 'Cherokee Nation' mean the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

(b) 'Cherokee Freedmen', 'Freedmen', and 'Black Cherokees'- The terms 'Cherokee Freedmen', 'Freedmen', and 'Black Cherokees' refer to individuals who can trace their ancestry to individuals listed on the 1906 Dawes Commission Roles for the Cherokee Freedmen.

(c) 'Other Freedman Indians'- The term 'Other Freedmen Indians' refers to individuals who can trace their ancestry to the 1906 Dawes Commission Rolls who are members of the Choctaw, Chickasaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations.

(d) Secretary- The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. NONCOMPLIANCE.

(a) Effective Date- Notwithstanding any decision by Congress under section 2(d) of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall again take effect if at any future date the Secretary certifies to Congress that the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma is not in full compliance with its treaty obligations or Federal statutes that govern its relations with the United States Government.

(b) Private Action- Any Cherokee Freedmen shall have a private right to bring actions for injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or monetary damages against the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, officials of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, or Federal officials for noncompliance with this Act or for violations of the terms of the Treaty of 1866, the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, or the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968. The appropriate Federal courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction over actions brought under this subsection.

SEC. 6. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The Attorney General shall issue a finding on whether the Federal civil rights of the Cherokee Freedmen have been violated by either the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma or the Department of the Interior, or both. Individual Freedmen shall also have a private right of action to compel the Attorney General to investigate federal civil rights violations and provide a determination of whether a violation has occurred within 180 days of submitting a complaint describing the violation in writing.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORT ON EXPENDITURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

The Government Accountability Office shall issue a public report to Congress detailing for each of the 5 years ending immediately before the report was completed the Cherokee Nation's expenditure of all Federal funds. The report shall include an analysis of Federal funds allocated by the Cherokee Nation's leadership for its member benefits and services and for administrative and other purposes. The report shall determine whether or not the Cherokee Nation is in full compliance with all Federal regulations and laws regarding the management and disbursement of Federal funds.

Article V. Distribution of Powers
The powers of the government of the Cherokee Nation shall be **divided into three (3) separate branches:** Legislative, Executive and Judicial; and except as provided in this Constitution, the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government shall be separate and distinct and **no branch shall exercise the powers properly belonging to either of the others.**

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Cherokee People

Constitution

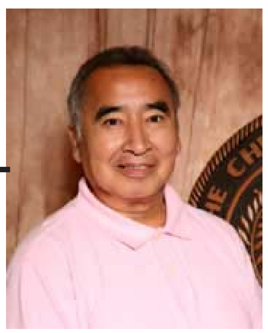
"If this is the current operating structure of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, it is unconstitutional"

Executive Branch

Legislative Branch

Judicial Branch

Chief Chad Smith


Deputy Chief Joe Grayson Jr

Chief Smith & "Team Cherokee" believe they are the Cherokee Nation and the Cherokee people are not!

It appears Chief Smith has direct control of the Judicial Branch & Legislative Branch by "Team Cherokee"

Chief Justice Darell R. Matlock

Justice James G. Wilcoxen

Jusitce Kyle B. Haskins

Justice Troy Poteete

Chief Smith's Slate "Team Cherokee"

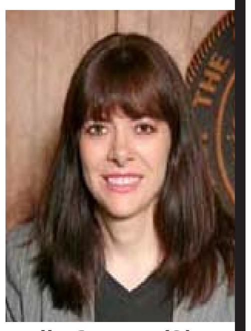
Meredith Frailey *(S)*

Cara Cowan Watts *(S)*

Bradley Cobb *(S)*

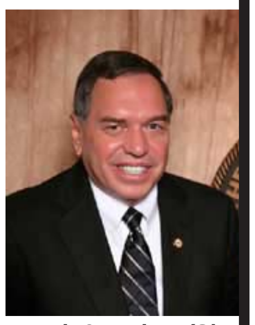
Don Garyin *(S)*

Harley Buzzard *(S)*


Julia Coates *(S)*

Janelle Fullbright *(S)*

Curtis G. Snell *(S)*


Jack 0. Baker *(S)*

Buel Anglen *(S)*

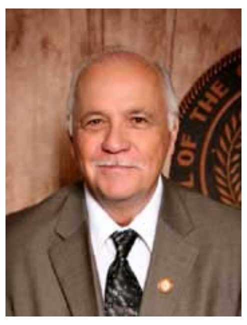
Chris Soap *(S)*

Representative's of the Cherokee People

Bill John Baker

S. Joe Crittenden

Tina Glory Jordan


David W. Thornton Sr

Chuck Hoskin Jr

Jodie Fishinghawk

Chief Justice

Justice Darrell Dowty

?

Justice

Jusitce

Justice

"Their Actions Speak Louder Than Their Words"

Article VI. Legislative
Section 7. The Council shall have the **power to establish laws which it shall deem necessary and proper for the good of the Nation, which shall not be contrary to the provisions of this Constitution.** The style of all bills shall be: "Be It Enacted By The Cherokee Nation". The style of all resolutions shall be "Be It Resolved By The Cherokee Nation".

Section 8. No laws passed by the Council shall have retroactive effect or operation.
[retro-ac-tive (re'tro ak'tiv) ***adj.*** having an effect on things that are already past.]

Article XI. Removal From Office
Section 1. The Principal Chief, Deputy Principal Chief, members of the Council, Attorney General and Marshal **shall be subject to removal from office for willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, habitual drunkenness, incompetency or any conviction of a felony, or a crime under the laws of the Cherokee Nation that if committed in some other jurisdiction would be a felony, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or offenses against the Cherokee Nation committed while in office.**

Section 4. Separate from the Council's removal powers, the People of the Cherokee Nation reserve unto themselves the exclusive power to recall any elected official through petition and recall referendum. A petition must be signed by Cherokee citizens registered to vote. In the case of Principal Chief or Deputy Principal Chief, signatures must total a number equaling or exceeding fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of registered voters in the previous general election. In the case of district offices, signatures must total the greater of five hundred (500) or twenty-five percent (25%) of the total number of registered voters in that district in the previous general election. The signed petition shall be filed with the Election Commission to determine whether the signatures are valid. Said determination shall be made within thirty (30) days after the filing of same. Upon verification of the requisite number of signatures the Election Commission shall certify the petition as valid and notify the Council and the Secretary of State.
Upon notification of a valid certified petition the Council shall immediately call for and approve a special recall election for the office in question within sixty (60) days. The special recall election shall be limited in scope to the voting populous for the elected office in question. Votes casts shall be tabulated and the results certified in the same manner as in general elections. A majority vote to affirm the official shall retain the official in office. A majority vote to recall shall immediately remove the official from office. In the event of a tie-vote the Council shall call a special meeting to conduct a tie-breaking vote. Elected offices vacated under this section shall be filled as otherwise provided in this Constitution.

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(2) Revoked existing elected officials' compensation laws in preparation to **vote themselves another pay raise, discussing** 75,000 annually and increasing the Chief's salary to nearly $300,000 a year.

What have they done for a 100% raise?

So under Article VI. Legislative, Section 7. The Council shall have the power to establish laws which it shall **deem necessary** and **proper for the good** of the Nation. So, team Cherokee is in violation of our constitution **Is it time to begin recall petitions?**

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